



3 August 2020

### School community letter

Dear parents, carers, students and staff

On Sunday 2 August, the Victorian Government announced that, on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, regional and rural Victoria will move to Stage 3 restrictions and metropolitan Melbourne will move to Stage 4 restrictions to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

These requirements apply to all schools across the government, Catholic and independent sectors and across all metropolitan Melbourne and rural and regional Victoria.

*Students across Victoria will return to remote learning on Wednesday, with tighter exemptions for children of essential workers (now defined as permitted workers) than the government imposed last lockdown. Note, the government is still to define 'permitted workers'.*

The changes to schools' operations will come into effect from Wednesday 5 August, following a student free day on Tuesday 4 August, and are likely to apply until the end of Term 3 ( Friday 18 September inclusive).

As outlined in the Chief Health Officer's advice on Friday, these steps are critical measures to reduce the movement of students and families across the state.

There are implications for our school, and for families in our school community. Please note the following:

- Mornington SDS is classified as a metropolitan school.
- Premier Dan Andrews has stated that **"...it really will only be those (students) that are absolutely necessary to do so (attend school).**
- Premier Andrews also stated that even for 'permitted parents' student attendance – the **exemptions - will be rare.**
- **If** the school is open it will be on a restricted timetable
- No teaching will take place, only supervision

A summary of what the changes mean for schools is below.

### METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE

#### SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

- On-site provision in specialist schools will only be available to children whose parents are permitted workers, and extremely vulnerable children.

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#### TIMELINE

- Tuesday 4 August will be a student-free day across Victoria to enable teachers, especially in rural and regional Victoria, to prepare for flexible and remote learning.
- Wednesday 5 August will be the first day of new arrangements for schools across Victoria

- This is a day ahead of the statewide introduction of the Stage 3 restrictions in rural and regional Victoria, but will provide for a smooth transition and will enable as much continuity of learning as possible.

#### STAFFING

- Staff not required for onsite supervision will work from home.

I will provide an update soon about arrangements for remote and flexible learning at our school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



David.

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LIVING OUR  
VALUES  
EVERY DAY



***I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the country throughout Victoria and pay respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.***